

Connecting Redmond Roundtable Meeting

Connections within Redmond

February 26 & March 11, 2004

A group of citizen volunteers met two times to discuss the topic Connections within Redmond.

Members of the group were:

Arnie Tomac, Ray Keefer, Diane Charles, Glenn Eades, Glenna Johnson, Jean Henry, Lori Snodgrass, Mike Flemming, Nancy Penrose, Ray Anspach, Peter Hartmaier.

City staff assisting the group were Don Cairns and Marta Hurwitz.

Group Discussion regarding Definition

- Moving people and goods from one part of Redmond to another
- People need to get to businesses
- Need all modes – bicycles, pedestrians, cars, transit
- Want choices
- Redmond neighborhoods must connect to each other
- Better connections within each neighborhood – on foot/bikes
- Where do people want to go?
- Identify the missing elements
- People want to reliably get somewhere on consistent basis
- Not many easy means left to connect areas from one neighborhood to another
- Stay within boundaries of Redmond for solutions
- Services are needed outside of Redmond (i.e. – hospital)
- Look at neighborhood feel – what works for each place might be different
- In-home businesses have impact – UPS trucks; access to homes
- Want neighborhoods to be connected with a choice of modes
- Using different modes of transportation that are integrated with, and help create, public spaces in all of Redmond

Definition of *Connections within Redmond*

Improve how to get from one place in Redmond to another safely, reliably and with minimal environmental impact using different modes of transportation (bike, pedestrian, transit, vehicles, etc.). These improvements should be integrated with, and help create, “public places.”

Opportunities

- Acquire BNSF right-of-way through Redmond
- Improve efficiency of existing streets
- Optimize neighborhood character/identity
- Match improvements to the neighborhood
- Widen SR-520 to bring more people to businesses
- Work with the SR-520 project for an alternate route around Redmond
- Improve existing services for transit
- Optimize near-term opportunities for transit
- Work with the regional transit planning cycle to improve local transit in Redmond
- Initiate rail stations in Redmond
- Utilize technological advancements to improve transit and traffic movement
- Teach younger generation to use alternate modes of transportation
- Improve health of community through alternate transportation methods
- Enhance Redmond's livability through alternate transportation methods
- Change concurrency requirements for all modes of transportation
- Eliminate trips by assisting home businesses
- Develop alternative modes of transportation

The discussion of the issues continued at the second meeting on March 11.

Barriers

- Lack of money
- Citizens unwilling to change behavior
- Geography of area makes it more difficult to develop transportation system
- Infrastructure favors cars
- Land use system favors cars
- Street grid is inflexible
- Takes a long time to make improvements
- Uncertainty of future growth
- Interface with WSDOT
- Disagreement with different agencies (or citizens) as to the vision for Redmond
- Interface with other adjacent jurisdictions

Top 3 Opportunities

1. Develop alternative modes of transportation (9 votes)
2. Improve existing services for transit. Optimize near-term opportunities for transit. Work with the regional transit planning cycle to improve local transit. (8)
3. Acquire BNSF right-of-way through Redmond (9)

Top 5 Barriers

1. Lack of money (7)
2. Street grid is inflexible (6)
3. Citizens unwilling to change behavior (6)
4. Infrastructure favors cars (4)
5. Land use system favors cars (4)

Ways to Overcome Barriers

Lack of money

- Develop a transportation bond to present to voters (raise taxes)
- Develop a strong justification for money
- Develop a clear plan what money is to be used for
- Develop community buy in
- Educate the citizens as to the benefits and why it is needed
- Partner with other jurisdictions and agencies
- Apply for grant money

Street grid is inflexible

- Focus on alternative forms of transportation
- Increase efficiency of streets we have now
- Complete strategic street connections
- Encourage connectivity with the streets we have now
- Remove pass-through traffic from Redmond

Citizens unwilling to change behavior

- Educate the citizens as to the benefits
- Ensure different modes of transportation are available
- Develop alternative modes of transportation as convenient as driving
- Market alternative modes to potential users
- Use peer pressure to change behavior
- Develop incentives (financial) to help change behavior
- Create pilot projects

Infrastructure favors cars

- Create HOV lanes on Redmond streets
- Make some streets alternate modes of transportation only
- Make some streets HOV only
- Make streets pedestrian friendly (i.e. sidewalks)
- Encourage other modes of transportation
- Encourage important infrastructure changes to existing transit (i.e. benches)
- Advocate for higher gas prices

Land use system favors cars

- Allow businesses to develop without parking
- Change regulations to favor alternative modes of transportation
- Allow neighborhood businesses (people can walk to shopping)
- Rezone areas so alternative modes of transportation are more viable
- Increase density in the downtown area
- Allow convenience retail (i.e. cleaners) in Business Parks

Ways to Implement Opportunities

Develop alternative modes of transportation

(i.e. transit, bike, rail, pedestrian, etc)

- Educate the citizens as to the benefits
- Measure the true cost of alternate transportation as part of education strategy
- Stress to need to eliminate unnecessary trips
- Research successes in other jurisdictions
- Develop overall strategy: Plan – Build – Educate – Market
- Ensure land use plans/transportation plans provide for bikes, pedestrians, etc
- Create neighborhood cut-throughs to join them together
- Encourage active neighborhoods
- Develop current neighborhood plans
- Create public places with a variety of amenities to attract people
- Develop a transit vision to Redmond – Tell Metro what Redmond wants
- Improve transit center
- Research alternative locations for transit center (i.e. mini transit centers in neighborhoods)
- Expand flex car use

Improve existing services for transit.

- Develop long term rail
- Stay involved in developing a fixed guideway system (i.e. rail)
- Encourage Transit Oriented Development (TOD) in Redmond
- Research “curb to curb” transit service (i.e. Davis, CA) that expands the Access Transit System to include the general public
- Allow private businesses to operate transit

Acquire BNSF right-of-way through Redmond

- “Rail bank” the right-of-way through Redmond
- Develop a cohesive plan for its use before trying to develop community buy-in
- Buy it through fee simple arrangement
- Issue a bond for its purchase
- Develop private/public partnerships
- Partner with the Park Bond

Top Priorities to implement (Voted on by group)

Develop alternative modes of transportation * *(i.e. transit, bike, rail, pedestrian, etc)*

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* The group decided to combine this item with “Improve existing service for transit” during the prioritization process

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